

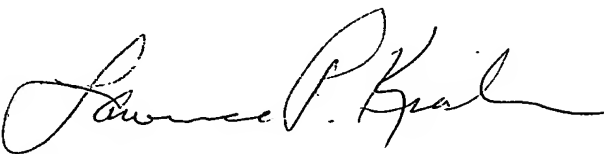
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action dated October 26, 2004, the Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 9, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and has rejected Claims 3, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Further, the Examiner has kindly indicated that Claims 4, 6, 8, and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. By this paper, Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out that which the Applicants regard as the invention by including the allowable subject matter of Claim 4 (now cancelled). Further, Claims 9-13 have been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claim 1 and Claims 2, 3 and 5-8 dependent thereon, which are the claims remaining in this Application are now allowable.

Applicants are not aware of any additional patents, publications, or other information not previously submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office which would be required under 37 C.F.R. §1.99.

This Application is now believed to be in condition for favorable reconsideration and early allowance, and such actions are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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